

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CANBER 03056 220528Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 XMB-02 PA-01 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 A-01
OPR-02 SY-05 USSS-00 /124 W
-----011316 230919Z /20

R 210749Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3057
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USDOE WASHDC
USDOE GERMANTOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 3056

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, EMIN, ENRG, AS
SUBJ:PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS THAT PRIME MINISTER FRASER MAY
DISCUSS POSSIBLE AUSTRALIAN LNG EXPORTS TO U.S. WITH
VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE

REF: CANBERRA 2953

1. AS DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE NOTED IN REFTEL, THERE ARE
INDICATIONS FROM WELL INFORMED PRIVATE SOURCES THAT PRIME
MINISTER FRASER MAY DISCUSS THE NORTH WEST SHELF NATURAL
GAS PROJECT WITH VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE DURING HIS
AUSTRALIAN VISIT. FURTEHR INQUIRIES WITH GOA ENERGY
OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED THE POSSIBILITY, WITHOUT BEING
DEFINITE, THAT THE FUTURE IMPORTATION OF AUSTRALIAN LNG
INTO THE U.S. COULD BE THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION.

2. INFORMATION FROM PRIVATE SOURCES(REFTEL) INDICATE
THE FOLLOWING ISSUES MAY BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE PRIME
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MINISTER AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT: (A) THE FAILURE OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO PROMPTLY APPROVE A SITE FOR THE
LOCATION OF AN LNG TERMINAL; AND (B) USDOE ECONOMIC
REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION DELAYS IN DECIDING ON WHETHER
OR NOT AUSTRALIAN LNG WILL BE PERMITTED TO BE IMPORTED
INTO THE U.S.

3. AGAIN IT IS WORTH REEMPHASIZING THAT, ALTHOUGH THE NORTH WEST SHELF JOINT VENTURERS ARE INTERESTED IN THE U.S. FUTURE LNG MARKET, THEY ARE NOT SITTING ON THEIR HADNS WAITING FOR THE RESPECTIVE U.S. BUREAUCRACIES TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY WILL PERMIT LNG IMPORT FROM AUSTRALIA. THE JAPANESE ARE THE OBVIOUS ALTERNATIVE MARKET IF THE U.S. PROCRASTINATES TOO LONG. ALSO AT ISSUE, OF COURSE, WOULD BE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN SUPPLIERS OF EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND SYSTEMS. ALSTON

NOTE BY OCT: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATURAL GAS, EXPORTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER03056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780173-0439
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780432/aaaabayx.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5a25efa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CANBERRA 2953
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2896609
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS THAT PRIME MINISTER FRASER MAY DISCUSS POSSIBLE AUSTRALIAN LNG EXPORTS TO U.S. WITH VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE
TAGS: OVIP, EMIN, ENRG, AS, US, (MONDALE, WALTER F), (FRASER, DONALD M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5a25efa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014